

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-17 are currently pending in the instant application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Donald K. Drummond on June 11, 2008.

Claims (filed on 4/28/2008)

1. Text line 3, ADD a comma “,” after both appearances of “hydrogen cyanide”
Text line 4, ADD a comma “,” after “hydrogen cyanide”
Text line 5, ADD a comma “,” after “hydrogen cyanide”
Text line 8, ADD a comma “,” after both appearances of “hydrogen cyanide”
Text line 10, ADD a comma “,” after “air”
5. Text line 2. DELETE [under reduced pressure]
Text line 3, ADD a comma “,” after “air”
13. Text line 2, DELETE comma “,” after “catalyst” and REPLACE with semi-colon
“;”
Text line 9, ADD a comma “,” after “air”

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The instantly claimed process is novel and non-obvious over the prior art because of the novel regeneration of the microporous solid which has been contacted with 1,3-butadiene, hydrogen cyanide, or both with 1,3-butadiene and the hydrogen cyanide. The closest prior art is U.S. Patent Serial No. 3,846,474: Mok et al. This reference does not encompass the scope of the instant application, which includes the following novelties: the regeneration of the microporous solid. Mok et al., column 7, discloses a process which regenerates a catalyst, but not the molecular sieve involved in the process. The prior art reference does not contain the identical or obvious variants at the aforementioned process steps. A person of ordinary skill in the art would not have expected that making these modifications would obtain identical products as disclosed in the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Claims 1-17 are allowed.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Samantha Shterengarts whose telephone number is (571)270-5316. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday, 9AM - 6PM Est. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisors, Cecilia Tsang and Janet Andres can be reached on 571-272-0562 and 571-272-0867,

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respectively. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/SAMANTHA SHTERENGARTS/ Examiner, Art
Unit 4131

/Kamal A Saeed, Ph.D./
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1626